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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/576,462

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

CRISTINA OWEN SHERR

Art Unit

3685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No./Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's Amendment filed June 23, 2008. Claims 1-53, and 55-68 are currently pending in this case.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed June 23, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. Applicant argues that since "the Board had reversed the previous Examiner's rejections, and not issued new rejections on claims 19-23, 25-45, 51-53, and 54-62, those claims stood allowed."

4. Examiner respectfully disagrees, and directs attention to the DECISION ON APPEAL, at page 19, where the BOARD states "... we have not reviewed claims 19-53 and 55-62 to the extent necessary to determine whether these claims are patentable over the Pool patent. We leave it to the instant Examiner to determine the appropriateness of any further rejections based on these references." The claims, therefore, do not stand allowed and the rejections are, in fact, appropriate.

5. Applicant argues, regarding claims 8, 17, and 26, that nothing in the cited reference discloses, teaches or suggests, a third updatable database.

6. Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs attention to the BPAI decision, at page 18, which states, in relevant part, "Pool fails to describe updating his third commodity code and other data related to the product database. However, Pool describes maintaining the fourth database including deducting from inventory (Findings of Fact 14 and 17). This suggests that as data in a database becomes obsolete it must

be updated. Therefore, it would have been obvious to update Pool's third database to replace obsolete information."

7. Applicant argues, regarding claim 19, that nothing in Pool teaches, discloses or suggests the limitations of claim 19.

8. Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs attention to both Pool and the BPAA decision, wherein

9. "Pool describes "selecting" a product from an on-line catalog (See Findings of Fact 10 and 11). Inherent to selecting the product is identifying the product. Otherwise the system of Pool would not be able to perform subsequent process steps. Therefore, we find that Pool describes inputting a product identifier which by the terms of claim 19 is invoice data (wherein the invoice data contains a product identifier). Thus, Pool describes inputting invoice data as claimed.

10. "Pool describes "transferring" the product identifier to a server hosting a database of product identifiers and tariff classification information particular to the product identifiers (See finding of Fact 11). Pools' third database has a look-up table for finding the commodity code for the selected product. This requires that the product identifier be transferred as claimed or else the look-up process would be inoperative. Pool describes "matching" as this is inherent to the operation of a look-up table such as the one shown in Pool. Pool describes "outputting" (obtaining) a commodity code (Finding of Fact 11) which by the terms of claim 1 is a data record ("wherein the data record includes tariff classification information"). Thus, Pool describes outputting a data record as claimed. Further, even if the term "data record" were interpreted to require the

outputting of additional information, Pool describes outputting such "other data" and "appropriate documents" (see Finding of Fact 12)."

11. Applicant argues, regarding claim 21, that nothing in the cited reference discloses, teaches or suggests accessing a system via a website.

12. Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs attention to BPAI decision, wherein "Pool describes his system is on the World Wide Web (Finding of Fact 5). Therefore, access is inherently via a web browser. That is any terminal that accesses the web-based databases of Pool is by definition using a web browser," and using a website.

13. Applicant argues, regarding claim 22, that nothing in the cited prior art discloses, teaches or suggests, that the data record is transformed into a customs report for transmittal to a customs entity.

14. Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs attention to the BPAI decision wherein 'Pool describes "outputting" (obtaining) a commodity code (Finding of Fact 11) which by the terms of claim 1 is a data record ("wherein the data record includes tariff classification information"). Thus, Pool describes outputting a data record as claimed. Further, even if the term "data record" were interpreted to require the outputting of additional information, Pool describes outputting such "other data" and "appropriate documents" (see Finding of Fact 12).' Whether the data happens to be a customs report or anything else is beside the point. Descriptive material (e.g. music, literature, art, photographs and mere arrangements or compilations of facts or data) that cannot exhibit any functional interrelationship with the way in which computing processes are performed does not constitute a statutory process, machine, manufacture or

composition of matter and should be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. In this case, being customs information does not serve to further distinguish the claim from the prior art.

15. Applicant argues, regarding claim 23 that nothing in the cited prior art discloses, teaches or suggest updating a third database.

16. Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs attention to BPAI decision, at page 18, which states, in relevant part, "Pool fails to describe updating his third commodity code and other data related to the product database. However, Pool describes maintaining the fourth database including deducting from inventory (Findings of Fact 14 and 17). This suggests that as data in a database becomes obsolete it must be updated. Therefore, it would have been obvious to update Pool's third database to replace obsolete information."

17. Applicant argues, regarding claims 24 and 25, that nothing in the cited prior art teaches, discloses or suggests, that the third programming steps read on the second user of the third database.

18. Examiner respectfully disagrees. We note that language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation. MPEP §2106 II C. Optional claim elements do not narrow claim, since they can always be omitted. *In re Johnston*, 77 USPQ2d 1788 (CA FC 2006). In this case, the language of claim 24, from ". . . accessible by a second user .." to the end of the claim, merely makes optional but does not actually require that user do anything. Thus, the said feature does not serve to further distinguish the claims from the prior art.

19. Applicant argues, regarding claim 26, that nothing in the cited prior art discloses, teaches or suggests a third web page, accessible by a third user, accessible by a third user, at a third terminal coupled to the internet using a web browser, that permits the third user to update the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classifications in the third database.

20. Examiner respectfully disagrees. We note that language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation. MPEP §2106 II C. Optional claim elements do not narrow claim, since they can always be omitted. *In re Johnston*, 77 USPQ2d 1788 (CA FC 2006). In this case, the language of claim 26, from ". . . steps operable . . . , accessible by a second user .." to the end of the claim, merely makes optional but does not actually require that user or the steps actually do anything. Thus, the said feature does not serve to further distinguish the claims from the prior art.

21. Applicant argues, regarding claims 27-28, that nothing in the cited prior art a product identifier unique to a particular company or having a transaction associated with a particular company. Generally speaking, we note that the purpose of identifiers is to identify. It does no one any good to assign the same identifier to different transactions, to different companies or to different products. The resulting confusion would defeat the purpose of making any identification at all.

identifier

Pronunciation:

\ī-'den-tə-,fī(-ə)r, ə-\

Function:

noun

Date:

1889

: one that identifies

identifier." Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2009.

Merriam-Webster Online. 17 February 2009

<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/identifier>>

22. Also,

identify

Pronunciation:

\ī-'den-tə-,fī, ə-\

Function:

verb

Inflected Form(s):

iden-ti-fied; iden-ti-fy-ing

Date:

1644

transitive verb

to establish the identity of

"identify." Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2009.

Merriam-Webster Online. 17 February 2009

<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/identify>>

23. Thus, we support our Official Notice that it is old and well-known to assign unique identifiers.

24. Applicant argues regarding claim 30, that nothing in the cited prior art discloses teaches or suggests tariff classification information being assigned to the product identifier included in the invoice data.

25. Examiner respectfully disagrees. We first refer to the definitions above regarding identifiers generally. It is old and well-known to assign unique identifiers generally, such that whatever identity it is necessary to establish is established. Further, 'Pool describes "outputting" (obtaining) a commodity code (Finding of Fact 11) which by the terms of claim 1 (and thus its dependent claims 27 and 28) is a data record ("wherein the data record includes tariff classification information"). Thus, Pool describes outputting a data record as claimed. Further, even if the term "data record" were interpreted to require the outputting of additional information, Pool describes outputting such "other data" and "appropriate documents" (see Finding of Fact 12).' Whether the data happens to be a customs report or anything else is beside the point. Descriptive material (e.g. music, literature, art, photographs and mere arrangements or compilations of facts or data) that cannot exhibit any functional interrelationship with the way in which computing processes are performed does not constitute a statutory process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter and should be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. In this case, being customs tariff information does not serve to further distinguish the claim from the prior art.

26. Applicant argues, regarding claims 31-32, 24, 38, 39, 50, 55-59, that nothing in the cited prior art discloses teaches or suggests, updating product information to ensure accuracy of associations between product identifiers and tariff classifications.

27. Examiner respectfully disagrees. We first refer to the definitions above regarding identifiers generally. It is old and well-known to assign unique identifiers generally, such that whatever identity it is necessary to establish is established. Further, if such identification is not updated, the purpose of the identifiers is defeated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

28. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

29. Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pool (US 6,460,020).

30. Pool discloses as discussed in the Decision on Appeal, mailed February 28, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

31. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

32. Claims 8 and 17, 23, 26, 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool (US 6,460,020).

33. Pool discloses as discussed in the Decision on Appeal, mailed February 28, 2007.

34. Regarding claim 8 –

35. Poole discloses catalogs maintained on a database which can be updated (column 1, lines 30-41), as well as the conversion rate for currency is continually updated. See also, columns 6 and 7, lines 3 -18 and lines 15 - 27. Poole does not specifically disclose *modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers to ensure an accuracy of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classification information*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database arts to update product information because it provides a powerful tool for organizing and updating products and product information, assigning fees and tariffs to products during transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

36. Regarding claim 17 –

37. Poole discloses catalogs maintained on a database which can be updated (column 1, lines 30-41), as well as the conversion rate for currency is continually updated. See also, columns 6 and 7, lines 3 -18 and lines 15 - 27. Poole does not specifically disclose *modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers to ensure an accuracy of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classification information*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database arts to update product information because it provides a powerful tool for organizing and updating products and product information, assigning fees and tariffs to products during transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

38. Regarding claim 19 –

39. Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity

codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively. Applicants' server reads on the web site of column 3, lines 41 - 44, Applicants' first computer reads on the computer operated by the customer, Applicants' program reads on the program used by the third database, and Applicants' second computer reads on the vendor's computer.

40. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

41. Regarding claim 20 –

42. Poole discloses that the information (invoice data) from the customer (first terminal) is transmitted/inputted to the system operator/website (server), which is associated with the third database (Applicants' database). See at least column 3, line 60 to column 4, line 20.

43. Regarding claim 21 –

44. Poole discloses that the vendor (second terminal) connects to the transaction system to generate the data record. Although Poole do not specifically disclose how the

vendor accesses the system (whether a private link or public - website), Poole does disclose that the system is on a website (column 4, lines 47 – 51).

45. Regarding claim 22 –

46. With regard to the limitation of *the data record is transformed into a customs report for transmittal to a customs entity*, Poole discloses that a customs report is transmitted to a customs entity. See column 10, lines 22 - 27.

47. Regarding claim 23 –

48. Poole discloses catalogs maintained on a database which can be updated (column 1, lines 30-41), as well as the conversion rate for currency is continually updated. See also, columns 6 and 7, lines 3 -18 and lines 15 - 27. Poole does not specifically disclose *modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers to ensure an accuracy of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classification information*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database arts to update product information because it provides a powerful tool for organizing and updating products and product information, assigning fees and tariffs to products during transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

49. Regarding claim 24 –

50. With regard to the limitations of:

- *first programming steps operable for establishing a first web page, accessible by a first user at a first terminal coupled to*

the Internet using a web browser, that permits the first user to input invoice data associated with an import/export transaction, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier for a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;

- second programming steps operable for matching the product identifier included in the invoice data to a database of product identifiers and corresponding tariff classifications resulting in an output of a data record containing a tariff classification matched with the product identifier identifying the product to be transported in the import/export transaction; and*
- third programming steps operable for establishing a second web page, accessible by a second user at a second terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser that permits the second user to output the data record through the second web page.*

51. Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id)

accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively. Applicants' server reads on the web site of column 3, lines 41 - 44, Applicants' first computer reads on the computer operated by the customer, Applicants' program reads on the program used by the third database, and Applicants' second computer reads on the vendor's computer.

52. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

53. Regarding claim 25 –

54. With regard to the limitation of *the database is stored on a server coupled to the Internet*, Poole discloses Internet-accessible databases (column 1, lines 30-49).

55. Regarding claim 26 –

56. With regard to the limitations of:

- *fourth programming steps operable for establishing a third web page, accessible by a third user at a third terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser, that permits the third user to update the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classifications in the database*

57. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

58. Regarding claim 27 –

59. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole also teaches that a product from a particular vendor (thus a particular identifier) may be selected, column 5, lines 2 - 58. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *the product identifier is unique to a particular company;*

- *the import/export transaction is associated with the particular company;*

60. However, it is old and well known in the financial and transactional arts to assign company unique part numbers or product ID numbers to specific products, as well as associating identifiable transactions with specific companies. Since duties and tariffs are heavily taxed and regulated, maintaining precise records of products bought and sold internationally provides a record for assessing taxes and fees.

61. Regarding claim 28 –

62. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole also teaches that a product from a particular vendor (thus a particular identifier) may be selected, column 5, lines 2 - 58. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *the product identifier is unique to a particular company;*
- *the import/export transaction is associated with the particular company;*

63. However, it is old and well known in the financial and transactional arts to assign company unique part numbers or product ID numbers to specific products, as well as associating identifiable transactions with specific companies. Since duties and tariffs are heavily taxed and regulated, maintaining precise records of products bought and sold internationally provides a record for assessing taxes and fees.

64. Regarding claim 29 –

65. With regard to the limitation of *the first terminal is coupled to the server over the network*, Poole teaches that the customer interacts with the system via the Internet.

66. Regarding claim 30 –

67. With regard to the limitation of *the matching step results in the tariff classification information being assigned to the product identifier included in the invoice data*, Poole teaches that the third database assigns/outputs commodity codes (tariff classification information) corresponding to the products selected by the customer.

68. Regarding claim 31 –

69. Poole discloses catalogs maintained on a database which can be updated (column 1, lines 30-41), as well as the conversion rate for currency is continually updated. See also, columns 6 and 7, lines 3 -18 and lines 15 - 27. Poole does not specifically disclose *modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers to ensure an accuracy of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classification information*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database arts to update product information because it provides a powerful tool for organizing and updating products and product information, assigning fees and tariffs to products during transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

70. Regarding claim 32 –

71. With regard to the limitation of *the invoice data lists products to be imported/exported, and each product is identified with a product identifier*, Poole

teaches that the invoice contains the products to be imported/exported along with a commodity code corresponding to the products selected.

72. Regarding claim 35 –

73. Poole/discloses the international e-commerce system as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose that *the customs entry report is sorted by tariff numbers*. However, in order to comply with US Customs the tariff numbers must be in order or sorted. Therefore, it is considered that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to sort the tariff numbers as this is a requirement of US Customs.

74. Regarding claim 36 –

75. With regard to the limitation of *creating a master report to facilitate the import/export transaction*, Poole teaches creating custom entry reports for customers. See columns 11 - 12, lines 35 - 67 and 1 – 53.

76. Regarding claim 37 –

77. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *displaying a harmonized tariff schedule in a split screen during the matching step.*
- *linking to a harmonized tariff schedule in a split screen with the data record.*

78. However, it is obvious in the computer arts to use split-screen display devices. Placing data alongside related data provides a user with an environment that

encourages efficient comparisons and contrasts, as well as associations and relationships.

79. Regarding claim 38 –

80. With regard to the limitation of *the database of product identifiers and tariff classification information is customized on a per customer basis to ensure that the matching of the product identifiers with the tariff classification numbers is in compliance with local customs regulations*, Poole teaches that for products selected by a customer, tariff classification information is provided on the customer's invoice. As there may be many customers desiring to purchase any amount of different types of products, each of the invoices provided by the system will be customized. Further, Poole teaches that upon looking up the commodity codes, formats for any necessary import/export data and administrative requirements (compliance) for all countries involved are also considered.

81. Regarding claim 39 –

82. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole also teaches that a product from a particular vendor (thus a particular identifier) may be selected, column 5, lines 2 - 58. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *the product identifier is unique to a particular company;*
- *the import/export transaction is associated with the particular company;*

83. However, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the financial and transactional arts to assign company unique part numbers or product ID numbers to specific products, as well as associating identifiable transactions with specific companies. Since duties and tariffs are heavily taxed and regulated, maintaining precise records of products bought and sold internationally provides a record for assessing taxes and fees

84. Regarding claim 40 –

85. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole also teaches that a product from a particular vendor (thus a particular identifier) may be selected, column 5, lines 2 - 58. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *the product identifier is unique to a particular company;*
- *the import/export transaction is associated with the particular company;*

86. However, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the financial and transactional arts to assign company unique part numbers or product ID numbers to specific products, as well as associating identifiable transactions with specific companies. Since duties and tariffs are heavily taxed and regulated, maintaining precise records of products bought and sold internationally provides a record for assessing taxes and fees

87. Regarding claim 41 –

88. With regard to the limitation of *the first terminal is coupled to the server over the network*, Poole teaches that the customer interacts with the system via the Internet.

89. Regarding claim 42 –

90. With regard to the limitation of *the matching program results in the import/export transaction information being assigned to the product identifier included in the invoice data*, Poole discloses accessing a third database for the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected by the customer and included in the invoice.

91. Regarding claim 43 –

92. With regard to the limitations of:

- *updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network.*
- *updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network.*
- *a program operable for updating the database.*
- *a program operable for modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or import/export transaction information corresponding to each of the product identifiers to ensure legal compliance of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding import/export transaction information.*
- *updating the database to ensure that the associations of the harmonized tariff numbers with the customer's product numbers are in compliance with the country's customs regulations.*

93. Poole discloses catalogs maintained on a database which can be updated (column 1, lines 30-41), as well as the conversion rate for currency is continually updated. See also, columns 6 and 7, lines 3 -18 and lines 15 - 27. Poole does not specifically disclose *modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers to ensure an accuracy of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding tariff classification information*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database arts to update product information because it provides a powerful tool for organizing and updating products and product information, assigning fees and tariffs to products during transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

94. Regarding claim 44 –

95. With regard to the limitation of *the invoice data lists products to be imported/exported, and each product is identified with a product identifier*, Poole teaches that the invoice contains the products to be imported/exported along with a commodity code corresponding to the products selected.

96. Regarding claim 45 –

97. With regard to the limitations of:

- *the tariff classification information is a harmonized tariff number for a particular country.*
- *the import/export transaction information is a harmonized tariff number for a particular country.*

98. Poole et al teaches that the tariff classification information is a code for a particular country. See column 6, lines 51 - 61.

99. Regarding claim 46 –

100. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole also teaches that a product from a particular vendor (thus a particular identifier) may be selected, column 5, lines 2 - 58. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *the product identifier is unique to a particular company;*
- *the import/export transaction is associated with the particular company;*

101. However, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the financial and transactional arts to assign company unique part numbers or product ID numbers to specific products, as well as associating identifiable transactions with specific companies. Since duties and tariffs are heavily taxed and regulated, maintaining precise records of products bought and sold internationally provides a record for assessing taxes and fees.,

102. Regarding claim 47 –

103. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole also teaches that a product from a particular vendor (thus a particular identifier) may be selected, column 5, lines 2 - 58. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *the product identifier is unique to a particular company;*

- *the import/export transaction is associated with the particular company;*

104. However, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the financial and transactional arts to assign company unique part numbers or product ID numbers to specific products, as well as associating identifiable transactions with specific companies. Since duties and tariffs are heavily taxed and regulated, maintaining precise records of products bought and sold internationally provides a record for assessing taxes and fees.

105. Regarding claim 48 –

106. With regard to the limitation of *the matching steps result in the tariff classifications being assigned to the product identifiers included in the invoice data*, Poole disclose accessing a third database for the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected by the customer and included in the invoice.

107. Regarding claim 49 –

108. With regard to the limitations of:

- *the tariff classification information is a harmonized tariff number for a particular country.*
- *the import/export transaction information is a harmonized tariff number for a particular country.*

109. Poole et al teaches that the tariff classification information is a code for a particular country. See column 6, lines 51 - 61.

110. Regarding claim 50 –

111. With regard to the limitation of *the database of product identifiers and tariff classification information is customized on a per customer basis to ensure that the matching of the product identifiers with the tariff classification numbers is in compliance with local customs regulations*, Poole teaches that for products selected by a customer, tariff classification information is provided on the customer's invoice. As there may be many customers desiring to purchase any amount of different types of products, each of the invoices provided by the system will be customized. Further, Poole teaches that upon looking up the commodity codes, formats for any necessary import/export data and administrative requirements (compliance) for all countries involved are also considered.

112. Regarding claim 51 –

113. With regard to the limitations of:

- *creating an invoice representing a purchase of the products by a customer resident within the country, wherein the invoice lists the products by product number;*
- *uploading invoice data over a network to a server from a workstation coupled to the server over the network, wherein the invoice data is an electronic version of the invoice;*
- *creating a database of customer products and tariff classification information, wherein the database is accessible by the server, wherein the database comprises product numbers for products particularly associated with the*

customer, wherein the product numbers are each assigned a harmonized tariff number particular to the country;

- comparing the product numbers in the invoice data to product numbers in the database to compile a customs entry report where the product numbers in the invoice are each assigned a harmonized tariff number;*
- using the customs entry report to create a master report to facilitate entry of the products into the country, wherein the master report includes the harmonized tariff numbers assigned to each of the product numbers; and*
- sending the master report to a government customs office.*

114. Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of creating an invoice reads on the products input by the customer, Applicants' step of uploading invoice data reads on the customer transmitting (electronically) the invoice to the transaction system, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, Applicants' step of creating a database reads on the third database, Applicants' step of comparing the product numbers reads on the system of Poole determining the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected/input by the customer and placing them in "order" form (customs entry report), Applicants' step of using the customs entry report reads on putting the customer's "order" into proper form (master report) for "Customs", and

Applicants' step of sending reads on "moving the papers... to the customs department", columns 11 - 12, lines 61 - 67 and lines I - 4, respectively, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively. Applicants' server reads on the web site of column 3, lines 41 - 44, Applicants' first computer reads on the computer operated by the customer, Applicants' program reads on the program used by the third database, and Applicants' second computer reads on the vendor's computer.

115. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adapt the international e-commerce system of Poole with database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

116. Regarding claim 52 –

117. With regard to the limitations of:

- *updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network.*
- *updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network.*
- *a program operable for updating the database.*
- *a program operable for modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or import/export transaction information corresponding to each of the product identifiers to ensure legal compliance of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding import/export transaction information.*
- *updating the database to ensure that the associations of the harmonized tariff numbers with the customer's product numbers are in compliance with the country's customs regulations.*

118. Poole discloses catalogs maintained on a database which can be updated (column 1, lines 30-41), as well as the conversion rate for currency is continually updated. See also, columns 6 and 7, lines 3 -18 and lines 15 - 27. Poole does not specifically disclose *modifying the database to update the product identifiers and/or tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers to ensure an accuracy of associations between the product identifiers and corresponding tariff*

classification information. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database arts to update product information because it provides a powerful tool for organizing and updating products and product information, assigning fees and tariffs to products during transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

119. Regarding claim 53 -

120. With regard to the limitations of:

- *importing the products into the country; and*
- *facilitating passage of the products through the country's customs office using the master report created as a result of the comparing step.*

121. Applicants' step of importing/exporting and facilitating passage of the products read on the purpose of the system of Poole.

122. Regarding claim 55 -

123. With regard to the limitation of *the database of product identifiers and tariff classification information is customized on a per customer basis to ensure that the matching of the product identifiers with the tariff classification numbers is in compliance with local customs regulations*, Poole teaches that for products selected by a customer, tariff classification information is provided on the customer's invoice. As there may be many customers desiring to purchase any amount of different types of products, each of the invoices provided by the system will be customized. Further, Poole teaches that upon looking up the commodity codes, formats for any necessary import/export data

and administrative requirements (compliance) for all countries involved are also considered.

124. Regarding claims 56-58 –

125. With regard to the limitations of:

- *importing the product into a country using the data record.*
- *exporting the product into a country using the data record.*
- *the data record is used to facilitate the importing of the product into the country.*

126. Applicants' step of importing/exporting the product reads on the purpose of the system of Poole.

127. Regarding claim 59 –

128. With regard to the limitation of *the data record is used to create a customs entry report to facilitate the importing of the product into the country*, Poole disclose that the invoice (data record) is used to facilitate the importing of the product into the country.

129. Regarding claim 60 –

130. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose:

- *displaying a harmonized tariff schedule in a split screen during the matching step.*
- *linking to a harmonized tariff schedule in a split screen with the data record.*

131. However, it is obvious in the computer arts to use split-screen display devices. Placing data alongside related data provides a user with an environment that encourages efficient comparisons and contrasts, as well as associations and relationships.

132. Regarding claim 61 –

133. With regard to the limitations of:

- *inputting invoice data associated with an import/export transaction at a first terminal coupled to a computer network, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction;*
- *transferring the invoice data from the first terminal to a server hosting a database of product identifiers and tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers;*
- *matching the product identifier identifying the product to the product identifiers in the database; and*
- *outputting a data record in response to the matching step, wherein the data record includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifier identifying the product;*
- *importing a product into a country using the data record.*

134. Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/First database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database, the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively, and Applicants' step of importing a product reads on the purpose of the system of Poole.

135. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce system of Poole with database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

136. Regarding claim 62 –

137. With regard to the limitations of:

- *creating an invoice representing a purchase of the products by a customer resident within the country, wherein the invoice lists the products by product number; uploading invoice data over a network to a server from a workstation coupled to the server over the network, wherein the invoice data is an electronic version of the invoice;*
- *creating a database of customer products and tariff classification information, wherein the database is accessible by the server, wherein the database comprises product numbers for products particularly associated with the customer, wherein the product numbers are each assigned a harmonized tariff number particular to the country;*
- *comparing the product numbers in the invoice data to product numbers in the database to compile a customs entry report where the product numbers in the invoice are each assigned a harmonized tariff number;*
- *using the customs entry report to create a master report to facilitate entry of the products into the country, wherein the master report includes the harmonized tariff numbers assigned to each of the product numbers;*

- *sending the master report to a government customs office; importing the products into the country; and*
- *facilitating passage of the products through the country's customs office using the master report created as a result of the comparing step.*

138. Applicants' step of creating an invoice reads on the products input by the customer, Applicants' step of uploading invoice data reads on the customer transmitting (electronically) the invoice to the transaction system, Applicants' step of creating a database reads on the third database, Applicants' step of comparing the product numbers reads on the system of Poole determining the commodity codes corresponding to the products selected/input by the customer and placing them in "order" form (customs entry report), Applicants' step of using the customs entry report reads on putting the customer's "order" into proper form (master report) for "Customs", Applicants' step of sending reads on Poole electronically "moving the papers... to the customs department", columns 11 - 12, lines 61 - 67 and lines 1 - 4, respectively, Applicants' step of importing and facilitating passage of the products reads on the purpose of the system of Poole, column 4, lines 1 - 19.

139. Pool discloses the international e-commerce shopping system and database application as shown above. Poole does not specifically disclose database functionality such as assigning product identifiers to product, tariff classification information, transferring product data, etc. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the international e-commerce

system of Poole with database processing methods because it provides a powerful tool for organizing products, assigning fees and tariffs to products during a transactions, and provides the customer with instant data to make the process of buy and selling internationally more efficient.

140. Regarding claims 63-68 –

141. Poole teaches an international transaction system such that Applicants' step of inputting invoice data reads on the goods selected from the catalogs by the customer, Applicants' step of transferring to a server reads on the selection of the customer being transmitted to the processing center/1st database/system operator, column 4, lines 20 - 31, and Applicants' step of matching reads on the commodity code (product id) accessed and obtained, from a third database (via the system operator), based on the customer's selection, column 6, lines 52 - 61, and Applicants' step of outputting a data record reads on the generation of "appropriate documents" by the third database; the documents include at least, freight, handling, basic taxes, documentation fees, insurance and import/export charges of the product(s) (corresponding to the commodity codes)/product id(s)) selected by the customer, see columns 7 - 8, lines 61 - 67 and 1 - 64, respectively.

142. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the

responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

143. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

144. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

145. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CRISTINA OWEN SHERR whose telephone number is (571)272-6711. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.

146. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Calvin L. Hewitt, II can be reached on (571)272-6709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

147. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner
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